

Appl. No. 10/002,595
Amdt. dated August 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 4, 2005

PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 7A through 11B. These sheets, which include Figs. 7A through 11B replace the original sheets including Figs. 7A through 11B.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As an initial matter, Applicants respectfully request that the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 23, 2005 be acknowledged and that the references disclosed therein be considered.

Claims 1-7, 74-100, 102, 107, 109-169, 171-197, 199-237, 272, 274, and 275 are pending in the present application. Claims 74, 90, 92-94, 102, 107, 109, 112, 117, 118, 139, 142-147, 150, 166, 171-175, 176, 183-197, 199-203, 206-209, 211-225, and 229-231 have been amended. Claims 8-73, 101, 103-106, 108, 170, 198, 238-271, and 273 have been canceled. New claims 274 and 275 have been added. Re-examination and re-consideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-3 and the indication that claim 108 defines allowable subject matter. Applicants believe withdrawn dependent claims 4-7 also stand in condition for allowance as they depend upon elected, generic, and allowable independent claim 1. New claims 274 and 275 find support throughout the originally filed disclosure and should also stand in condition for allowance as they depend upon allowable independent claim 1.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants have canceled claims 8-73, 103-106, 238-240, 242, 243, and 254-271 without prejudice pursuant to a restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to pursue patent protection for these inventions in a subsequently filed divisional application.

Amendments to Specification/Drawings/Claims

The specification, drawings, and claims 144-147, 171-175, 183-197, 199-203, 207-209, 229, and 231 have been amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors. In particular, the units of "ug", "ug/day", "ug/mg", "um", "umol", "umol/L" have been corrected to "µg", "µg/day", "µg/mg", "µm", "µmol", "µmol/L" so as to reflect the correct measurement unit

denoted by the micro symbol. This amendment is supported by the originally filed specification, and in particular in paragraph numbers 36, 152, 178, 182, 184, 185, and 186. As such, no new matter has been added thereby.

Claim Objections

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful examination of the present case. Claims 90-94, 112, 118, 119, 122, 125-127, 130, 170, 176-179, 198, 226, 229, and 272 have been reviewed and amended accordingly so as to remove any improper multiple dependent claim format. Accordingly, these claims are now in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 74-89, 95-100, 150-158, 236, 241, 244-253, and 273 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,873,904 issued to Ragheb et al.

With respect to independent claim 74, this rejection is now moot as this claim has been amended to include all limitations of dependent claim 108 (and intervening claim 101), which defines allowable subject matter. Office Action, page 2. Thus, it is believed that claim 74 as well as claims 75-100, 102, 110, 112, 116-119, 122, 125-127, 130, and 272 dependent thereon, are now in condition for allowance. Applicants further believe withdrawn dependent claims 107, 109, 111, 113-115, 120, 121, 123, 124, 128, 129, and 131-149 also stand in condition for allowance as they depend upon elected, generic, and allowable independent claim 74.

With respect to independent claim 150, this rejection is now moot. In particular, independent claim 150 has been amended to include the novel and non-obvious limitations of dependent claim 198 (and intervening claim 170). Thus, it is believed that claim 150 as well as claims 151-158, 176-179, 226, 229, and 236 dependent thereon, are now in condition for allowance. Applicants further believe withdrawn dependent claims 159-169, 171-175, 180-197,

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199-225, 227, 228, 230-235, and 237 also stand in condition for allowance as they depend upon elected, generic, and allowable independent claim 150.

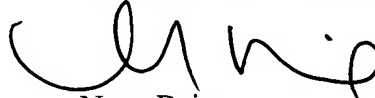
With respect to the remaining claims 241, 244-253, and 273, these claims have been canceled without prejudice to re-filing claims of a similar scope in a related application in order to expedite prosecution of the present case.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments
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Annotated
Sheets
SHOWING
CHANGES

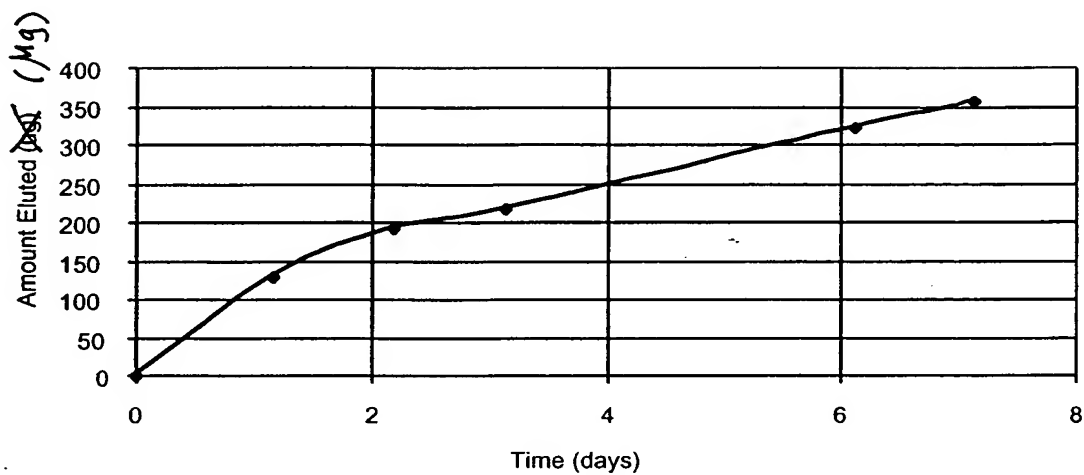


FIG. 7A

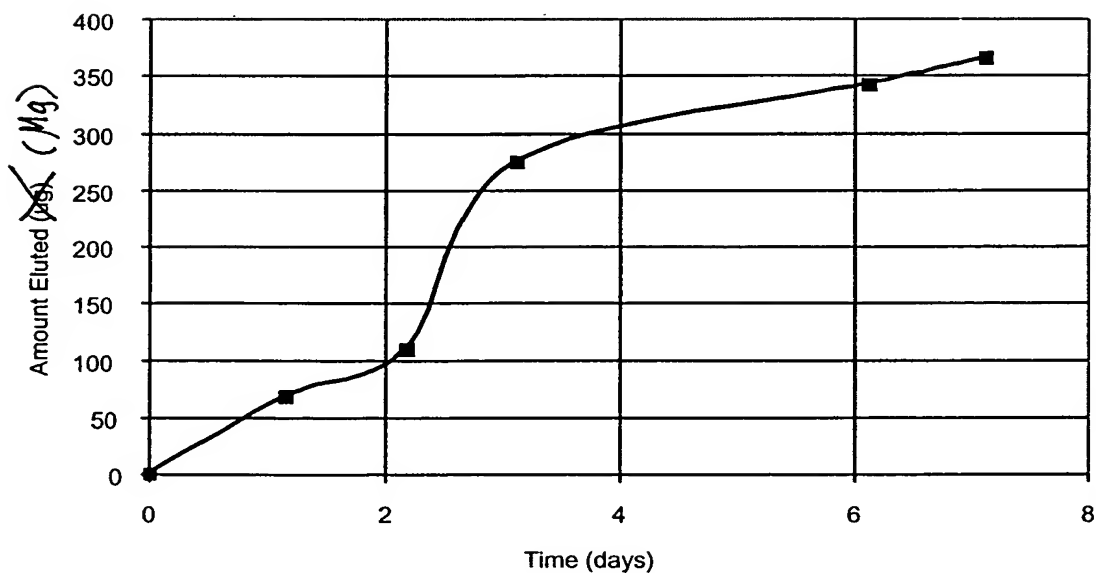


FIG. 7B

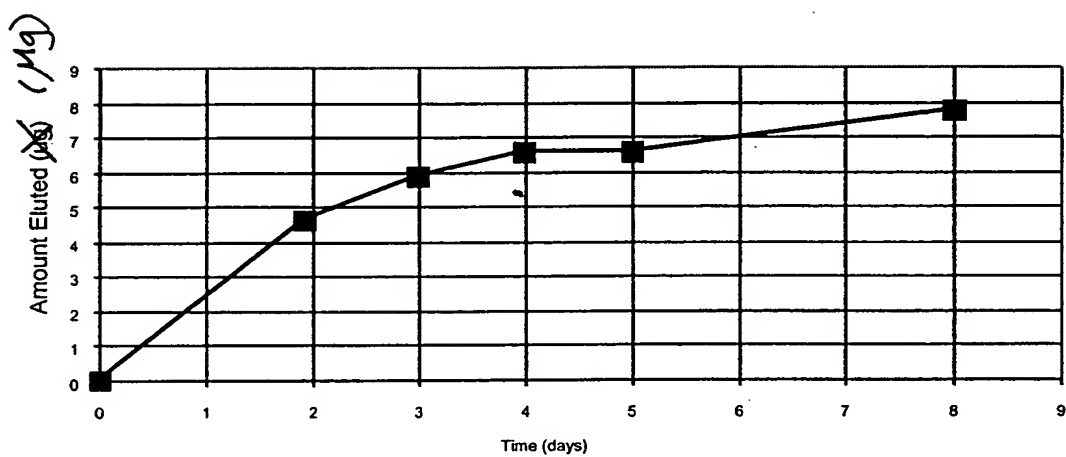


FIG. 8A

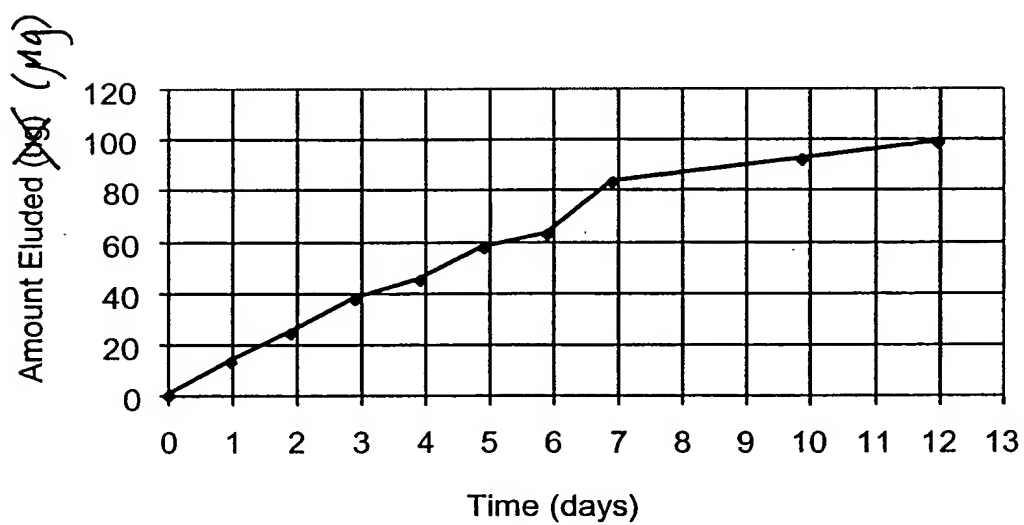


FIG. 8B

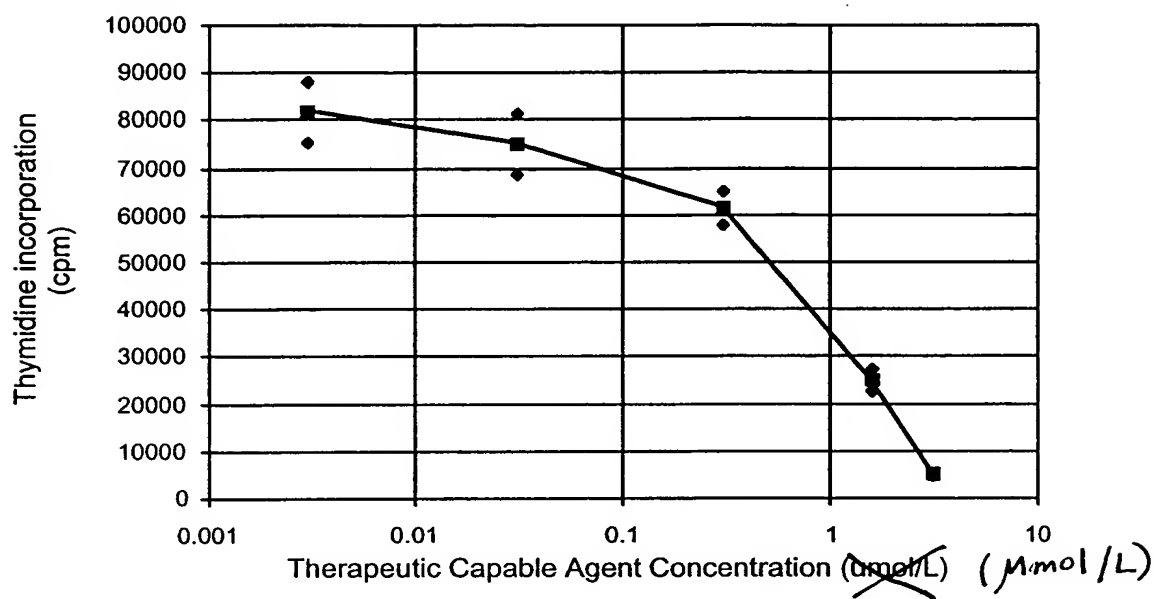


FIG. 9A

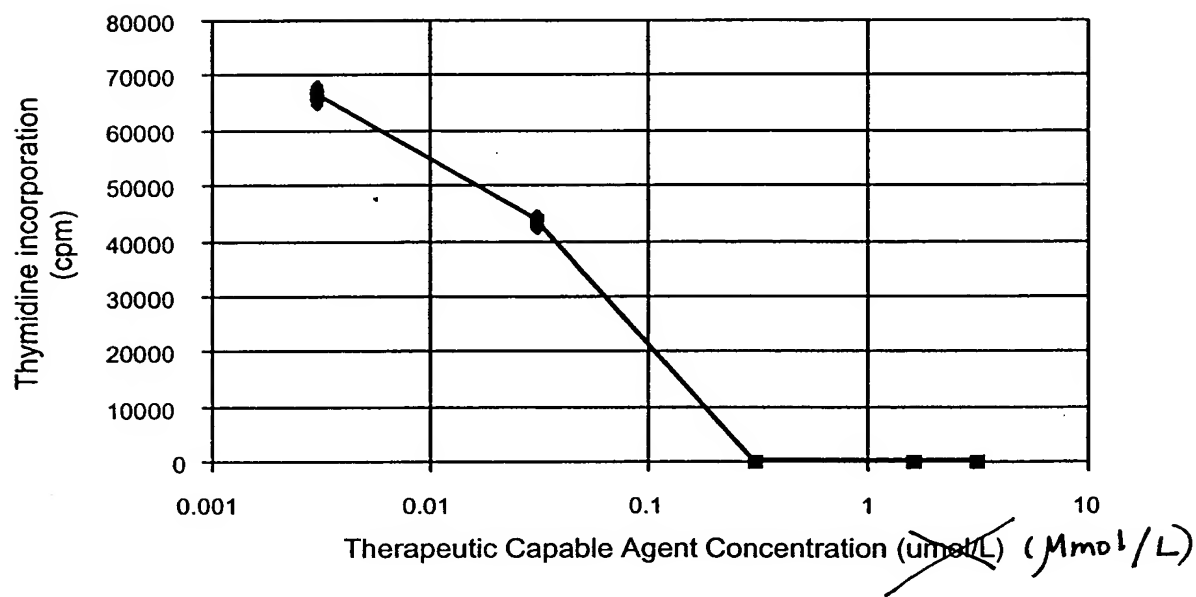


FIG. 9B

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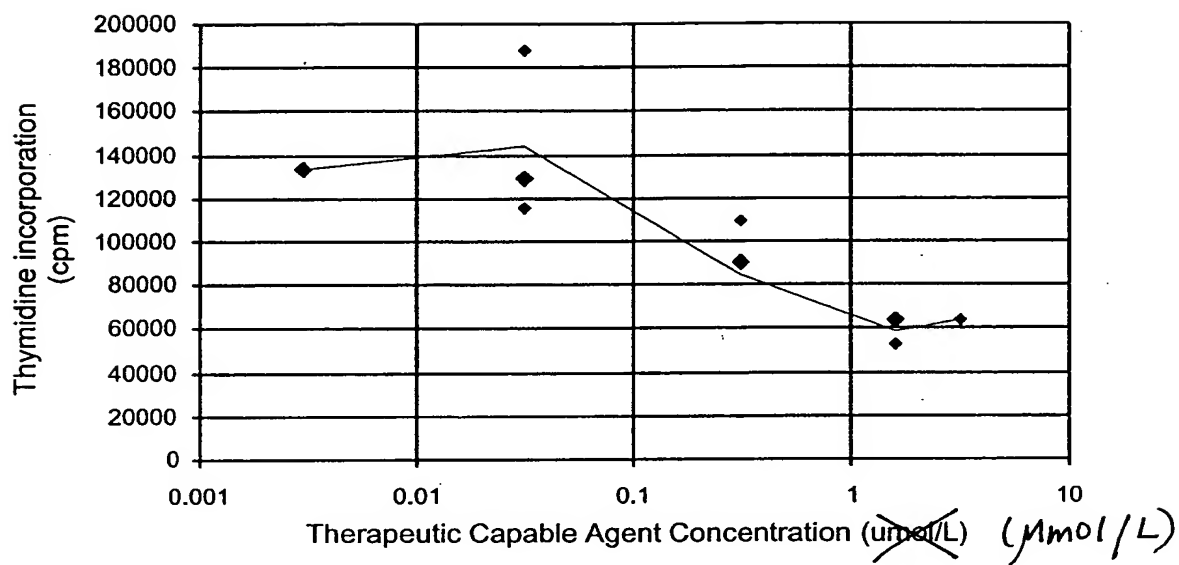


FIG. 9C

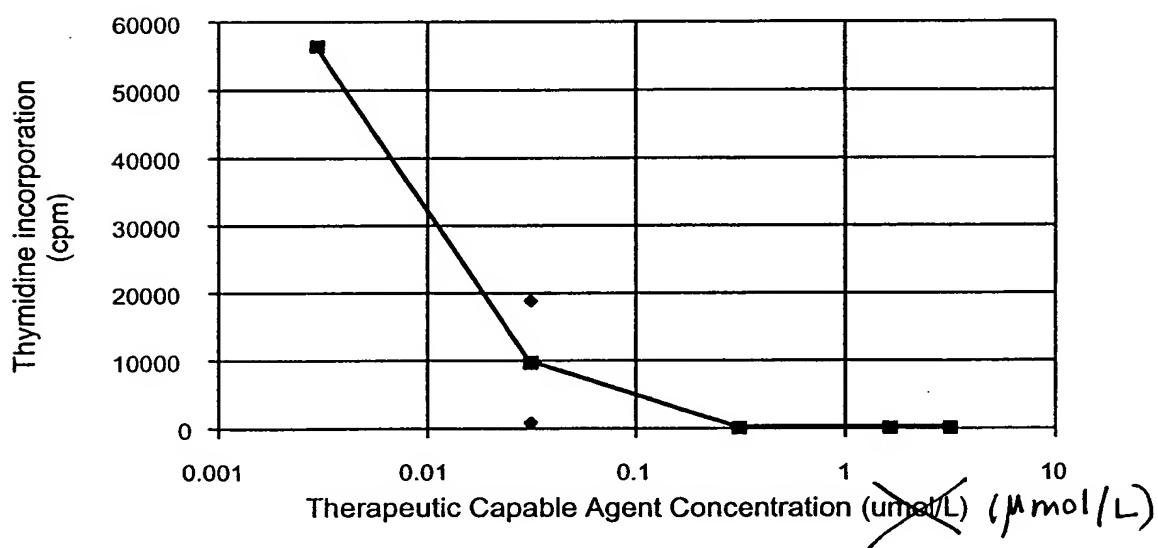


FIG. 9D

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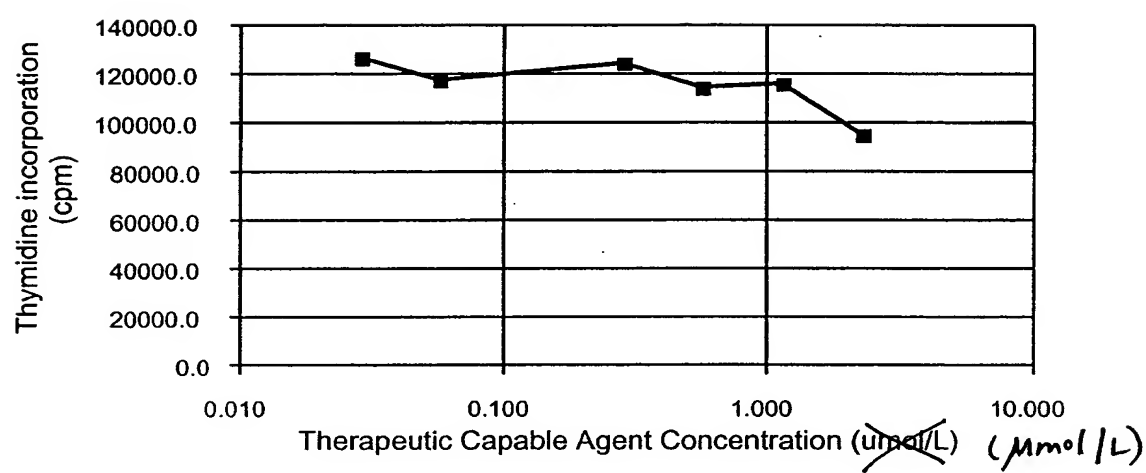


FIG. 9E

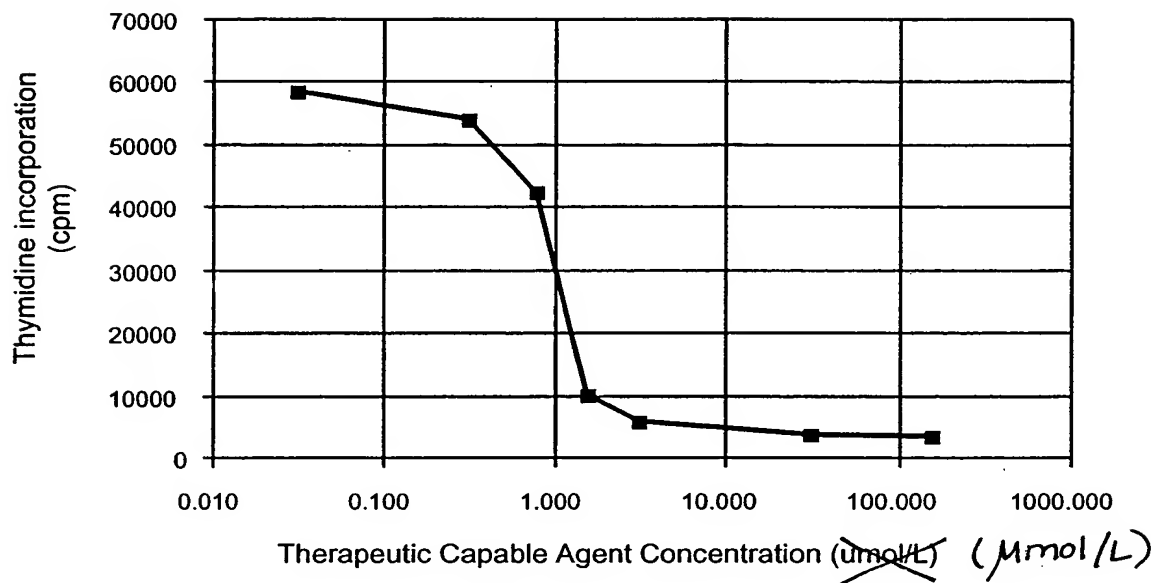


FIG. 10A

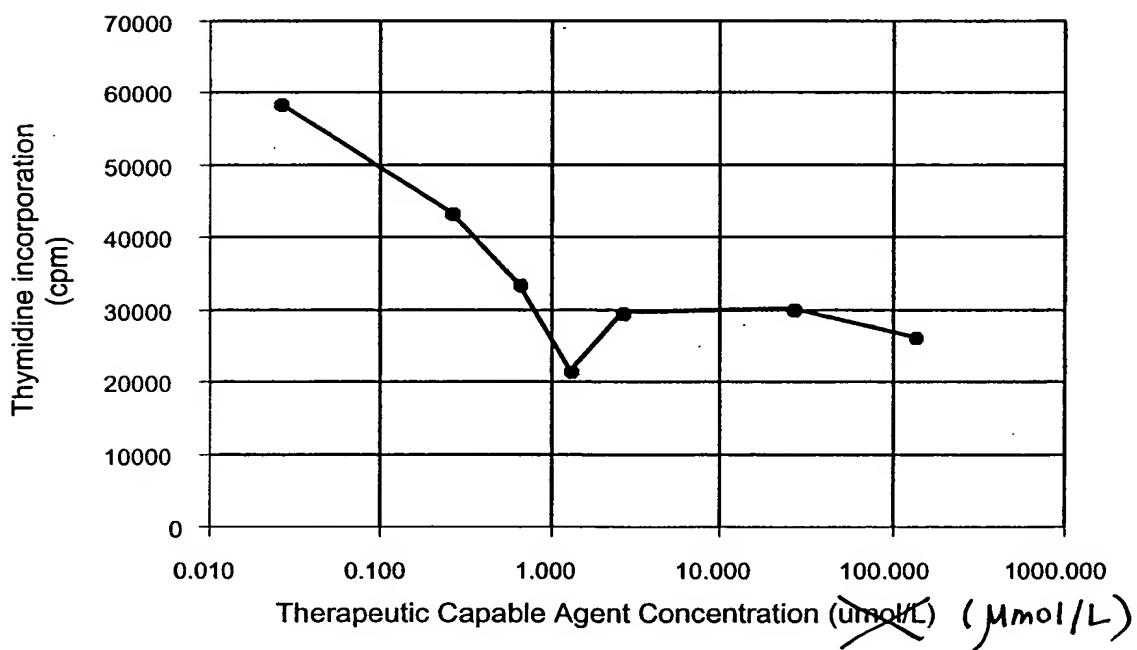


FIG. 10B

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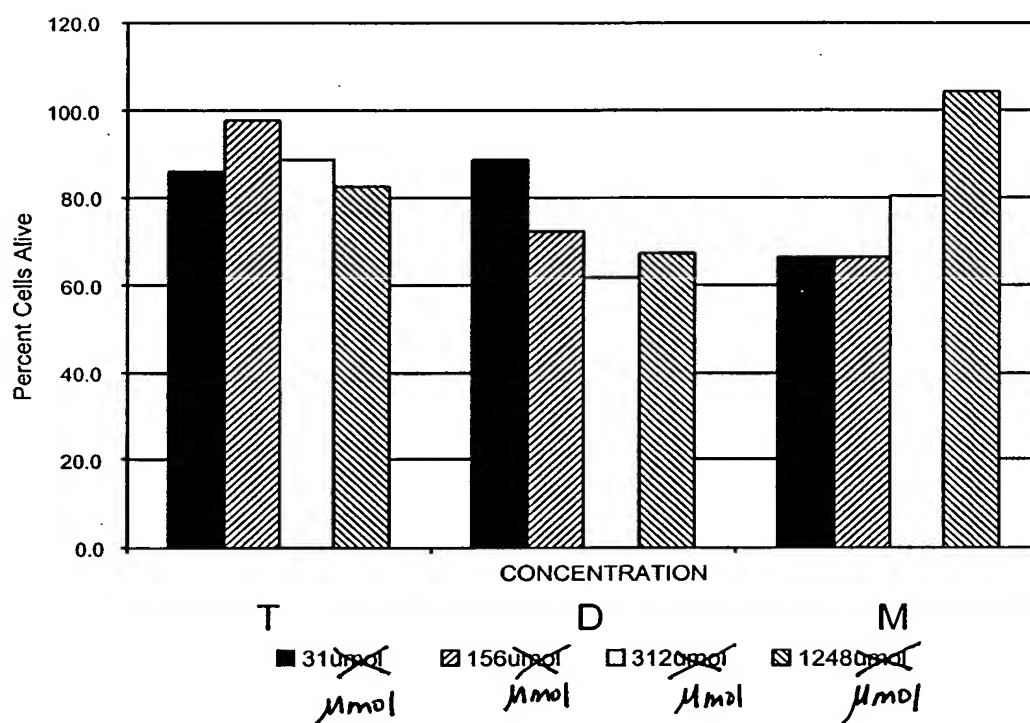


FIG. 11A

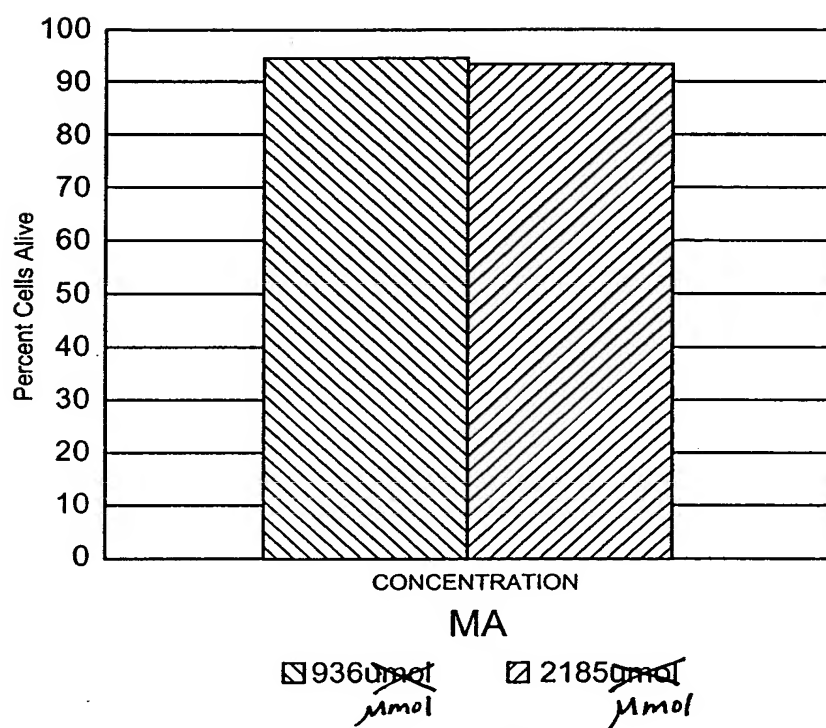


FIG. 11B